



THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER L. SMITH

Democratic Leader
31st District

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Appropriations
Appropriations Subcommittee on Criminal and Civil Justice
Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services
Communications, Energy, and Public Utilities
Community Affairs
Governmental Oversight and Accountability

SELECT COMMITTEE:

Select Committee on Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

JOINT COMMITTEE:

Joint Legislative Budget Commission

August 20, 2014

Tom Wheeler, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: MB Docket No. 14-57

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

All successful businesses thrive because they change, grow and develop a pragmatic approach to their future. As a longtime supporter of local business and current Senator of the 31st district in Florida I know good businesses remember the citizens they serve. Such is the case with Comcast, a stand out company that has provided great programs to many Florida citizens. That is why I write today to urge your approval of the proposed merger between Comcast and Time Warner Cable.

As a young man I spent my early years actively involved in many youth organizations including the Fort Lauderdale Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Youth Council, ascending to the position of president. As president, I began the Annual Christmas Toy Giveaway, providing toys to underprivileged children throughout Broward County. Even in those formidable years I recognized not everyone had the opportunity that I did to succeed, to go to school, to learn, to engage and to be heard. Comcast has provided a platform for those very citizens I helped long ago. Its Internet Essentials programs give those who qualify a reduced monthly rate for high speed internet access. It has and will open doors for the many underserved constituents in my district. I am heartened to know that through a merger with Time Warner Cable, Comcast will expand the scope of this program and its impact on more families that need digital access the most.

Comcast has also proven its leadership in the community through its Comcast Cares volunteer initiative and its employee contribution program to our local United Way. It's not just a business, it is a company that has taken a stake in our citizens.

REPLY TO:

- 2151 NW 6th Street, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33311 (954) 321-2705 FAX: (954) 321-2707
- 200 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5031

Senate's Website: www.flsenate.gov

DON GAETZ
President of the Senate

GARRETT RICHTER
President Pro Tempore

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As a member of the Senate Communications, Energy and Public Utilities Committee I am keenly aware of the challenges we are facing as we advance in our pursuit of new technology. I know that Comcast is aware of those challenges too, and is actively working with us to help address them. Its investments in infrastructure in Florida are truly impressive - from what I have heard, they have totaled well over \$6 billion since 1996. Those investments will help us and our workforce succeed well into the 21st century.

Comcast is a proven doer and leader. I hope you will strongly consider Comcast's proposed merger with Time Warner Cable for the new opportunities it will bring to so many others.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Chris Smith", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Senator Christopher L. Smith
Florida State Senate, District 31